

# GREATER NEW JERSEY

## METHODIST HISTORICAL SITES

WHEREAS, The Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2000 Edition, paragraph 1712. 1a) permits Annual Conferences to designate as Historic sites buildings, locations or structures related to significant events and important personalities in the origin and development of the United Methodist church and its antecedents.

THEREFORE, The Southern New Jersey Conference Commission on Archives and History have designated the following to be registered as United Methodist Historic sites with the General commission on Archives and History.

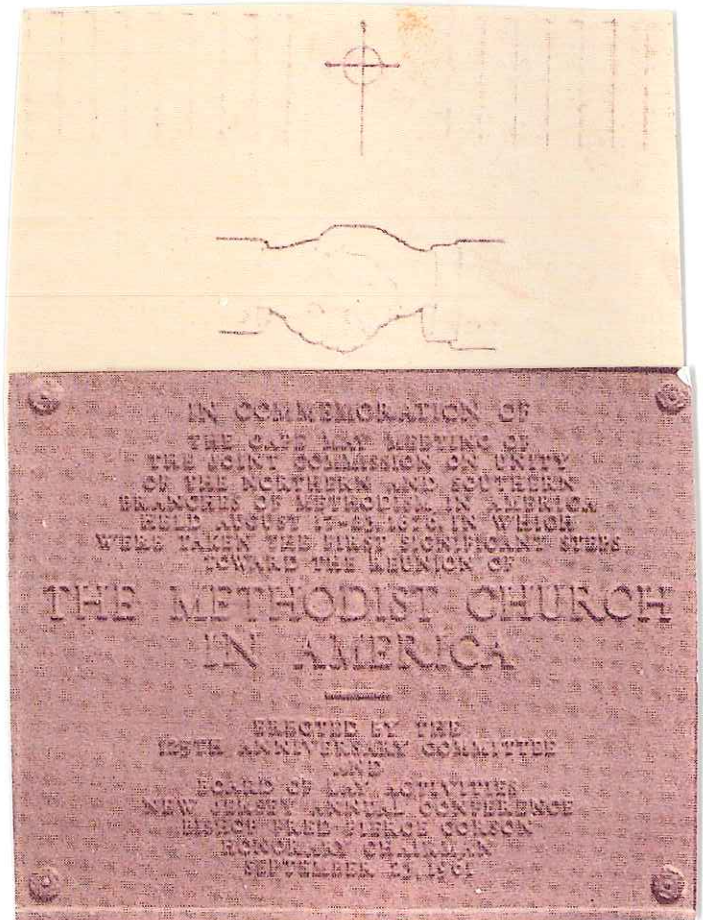


1. Pilmore-Boardman Landing Site, Gloucester Point, nominated at the 1969 Annual Conference. Site marker #224

Gloucester Point was the first landing place on October 24, 1769 of Joseph Pilmore and Richard Boardman, the first Methodist Missionaries assigned to America by John Wesley and the Conference in England.

2. Cape May Monument, nominated at the 1976 Annual Conference, site marker #44.

Cape May was the site of a famed conference held on August 17-23, 1876 between the Commissioners of the Northern and Southern branches of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This monument commemorates the Cape May Meeting of the Joint Commission on Unity of the Methodists in America. The result of said conference was the approval of the basis of fraternity between the two churches which was the first step in the long process of Methodist reunion.

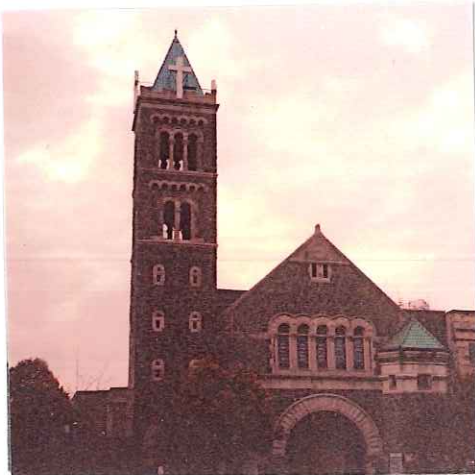




3. Ocean Grove Camp Meeting, Northeast District, nominated at 1986 Annual Conference, site marker #178.

It is one of the premier Camp Meetings in the United States. It was founded in 1869 by a group of Methodist Episcopal clergy and laity in an era when numerous camp meetings were established, many in the holiness tradition, Ocean Grove representing the best in that tradition. From its platform have performed the noted entertainers of the day, and from its pulpit have spoken U. S. Presidents, New Jersey Governors and the world's leading evangelists and preachers. It continues today to offer the finest in cultural and religious programs. The Historical Plaque was presented on September 7, 1986

4. First United Methodist Church, Trenton, Northwest District, nominated at the 1986 Annual Conference, site marker #175.



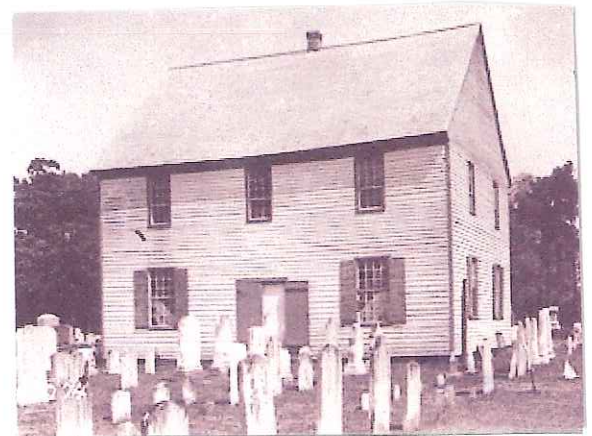
It is one of the oldest churches of the Southern New Jersey conference having been the place of Methodist preaching since the late 1760's. Its first church built in 1772 was one of the first to be erected in New Jersey. The first Methodist conference ever held in the State of

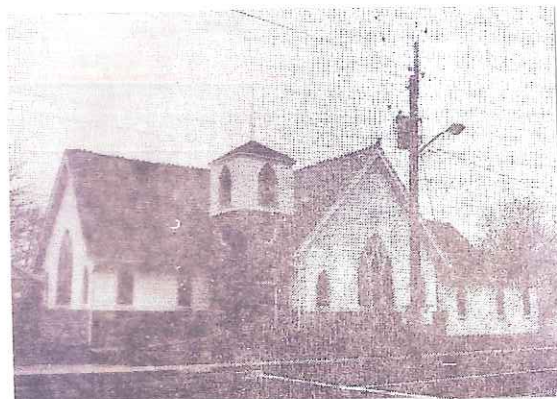
New Jersey was held in First Church, May 23 and 24, 1788 presided over by Bishops Asbury and Coke. Nearly all of the founders of American Methodism preached in Trenton, namely, Captain Thomas Webb, Richard Boardman, Joseph Pilmore, Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, Thomas Rankin and Robert Strawbridge among others.

The church was continued to maintain a viable ministry in the heart of New Jersey's capital city. The Historical Plaque was presented on October 12, 1986

5. Head of the River Methodist church, southeast District, nominated at the 1986 Annual Conference, site marker #178. 176

It is the oldest united Methodist Church building in the State of New Jersey having been erected in 1792. It was a preaching place of Bishop Francis Asbury, Benjamin Abbott and other significant early Methodist Circuit Riders. It has been carefully preserved through the years as a monument to early South Jersey Methodism



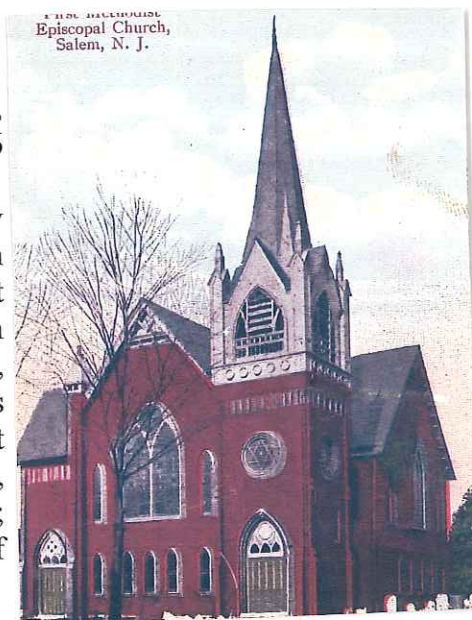


6. Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Lawnside, Central district, nominated at the 1986 Annual Conference, site marker #174.

The church was one of the charter churches of the former Delaware Conference, having been founded in 1827. It was a station on the Underground Railroad in pre-civil war days. It is today one of the largest black churches in the South New Jersey Conference.

7. First United Methodist Church, Salem, Southwest District, nominated at the 1986 Annual Conference, site marker #177

The church was founded in 1774 and early became the leading church in Salem County. In 1789 it became the head of the Salem circuit which in its origin embraced all of Methodism in Salem, Gloucester, Camden, Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May Counties. In its grave yard lie buried two of New Jersey's finest contributions to early American Methodism, Benjamin Abbott, the fiery apostle of holiness; and Thomas Ware, the last surviving member of the Christmas Conference.



8. Broad Street United Methodist Church, Burlington, Northwest District nominated at the 1987 Annual Conference. Site marker #207



The church came out of one of the first Methodist Classes organized in the State of New Jersey, December 14, 1770. Prior to that time, George Whitefield, Captain Thomas Webb and Joseph Pilmore all preached in Burlington. Bishop Francis Asbury preached his first sermon in New Jersey in Burlington on November 6, 1771. Asbury preached more times in Burlington, 42, than any other place in New Jersey. Broad Street Church Burlington has continued to maintain a strong ministry through the years and is concerned about its place in United Methodist history.

9. Old First United Methodist Church, West Long Branch, Northeast District, nominated at the 1988 Annual Conference, site marker #214 presented on August 6, 1989.

The first Methodist gatherings were held in this section of town in 1774. The present church was erected in 1809. The men of the church worked ten years on the building. Bishop Asbury preached there on September 30, 1809 when only the flooring had been laid. The first conference appointed minister was sent in 1834. The "New Era" disaster in 1854 brought many victims to the adjoining cemetery.



10. Batsto-Pleasant Mills Meeting House, Pleasant Mills, Southeast district, nominated at the 1989 Annual Conference. Site marker #223

Since the opening of its first chapel in 1707 the parish has been inspired through the ministry of circuit riders, local preachers and lay workers.

The present building was erected in 1808 and dedicated by Bishop Asbury on April 21, 1809. It is one of the oldest church buildings in the Southern New Jersey Conference to be in continuous use for worship with its building carefully preserved. Among others buried in the adjoining cemetery is Rev. Thomas Haskins, early Methodist preacher, friend of Asbury,

prominent Philadelphia civic and religious leader and one of the editors of Asbury's Journal. He was one of the preachers at Old St. George's in Philadelphia.



11. First United Methodist Church, Sea Bright, Northeast District, nominated at the 1990 Annual Conference. Site marker #272

The Sea Bright Church, with its memorial stained glass window to the memory of General Clinton B. Fisk, owes its existence largely to the work and efforts of General Fisk and his wife, Jeanette Crippen Fisk. They played a large role in the original "Fisherman's Church" in Sea Bright, were instrumental in the building of a second church in 1890 and when that burned Mrs. Fisk led in the building of the present church dedicated August 14, 1892.

Mrs. Fisk played a leading role in the Woman's Home Missionary Society of both the Denomination and Conference. She was the founding president of the Conference Society in 1885 and served as the third president of the Society for the M. E. Church from 1893 to 1908.



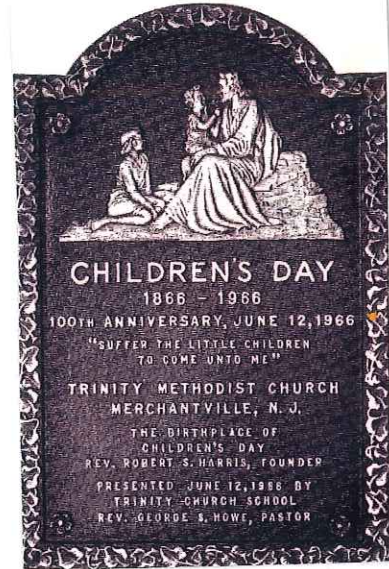
12. John Wesley United Methodist Church, Swainton, Southeast District, nominated at the 1991 Annual Conference. Site marker #273

The church was founded more than 150 years ago in 1840 by John West, a runaway slave from North Carolina. It was the first organized Negro church in Cape May County and became a charter church of the Delaware Conference when the Delaware Conference was organized in 1864. Rev. Charles A. Tindley (1856-1933) was one of the early pastors of this church. It was appropriate to make this designation during the bicentennial year of the death of John "Wesley, Since the church bears his name; it was especially fitting

that a church founded by a runaway slave should bear the name of the man who opposed slavery and encouraged its abolition. It is also significant that at least five of the 27 predominantly black churches in our conference formerly in the Delaware Conference bear the name of Wesley; a large percentage and a witness to Wesley's concern for all people.

13. Trinity United Methodist church, Merchantville, Central district, nominated at the 1991 Annual Conference. Historic site marker 274 was presented on June 14, 1992.

It is the church which founded the celebration of Children's Day. It was 125 years ago, on June 10, 1866, when the Rev. Robert S. Harris, first pastor of Trinity, sponsored a Children's Day celebration. That date (the second Sunday of June) and the celebration of Children's Day became widely adopted in churches of many denominations. Trinity Chapel, the building in which the tradition of Children's Day began, is still in active use. The present Trinity Church features a large stained glass window, "Christ and the Children," commemorating this event. Children's Day was observed for many years in Methodism, until it was replaced by Methodist Student Day. Presenting the claims of Christ to children in the Sunday School fed our membership rolls for many years. Now, when our membership statistics are declining, perhaps Children's Day should be more than a historic memory.



14. Pemberton United Methodist church, Northwest District, nominated at the 1992 Annual Conference. They received their historic site marker #284.

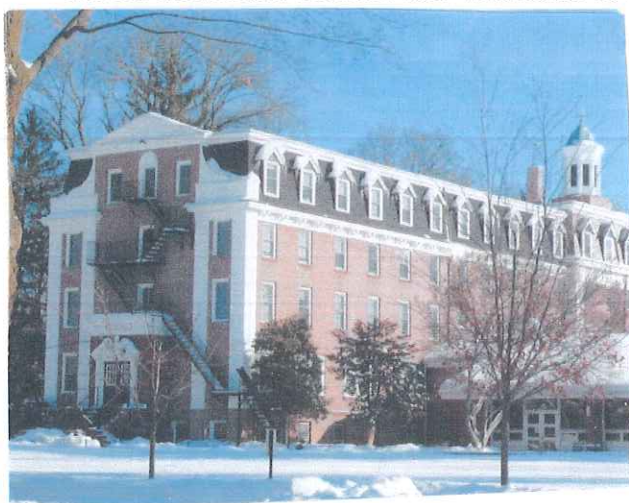
Pemberton Church was one of the first churches to be organized in the state of New Jersey, dating from 1769. It was the home of Captain Thomas Webb, early British Methodist Lay preacher. Bishop Francis Asbury visited and preached in Pemberton 17 times between March 30, 1772 and May 9, 1813. The Pemberton Church Cemetery is the burial site of a large number of Methodist Ministers including some of the early itinerants in New Jersey.

15. The Old Stone Church near Swedesboro was designated a United Methodist Historic Site by the Annual Conference and the General Commission on Archives and History in 1993. They received its historic site marker #291. Built in 1793 and just restored, Old Stone Church is the second oldest Methodist Church Building in New Jersey. The Commission and the Conference Historical Society marked the anniversary of John Wesley's conversion with an Aldersgate Day service on May 24 held at Old Stone.



16. Resolution designating Mt Hope United Methodist Church, Broadway and Elm Streets, Salem as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 1994 Annual Conference. They received its historical site marker #320. Mt. Hope is the oldest black congregation in the Conference and one of the oldest in New Jersey. The Aldersgate Day service was held at Mt. Hope on May 24.

17. Resolution designating "Old Main" Pennington School, Pennington, NJ as a United Methodist Historic site was made at the 2006 Annual Conference. They received



its historical site marker 426. The Pennington School was founded by the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1838. "Old Main" is the oldest structure on the campus dating from before 1860. The school has been led by such distinguished Methodists as Isaac W. Wiley, later elected bishop and Jonathan Townley Crane, author and pastor. The school has educated many students who have been ordained in the United Methodist Church or its antecedent bodies.

18. Resolution designating Mount Tabor Camp Meeting Grounds as a United Methodist Historic site was made at the 2013

Annual conference. They received its historical site marker 483. The camp was officially organized and opened in 1866. The Camp Meeting Association of the Newark Conference was incorporated March 17, 1869 by NJ Chapter Law 185, giving the conference the right to operate a religious camp meeting and allowed the church to exercise specific municipal powers with regard to its camp grounds.



19. Resolution designating Flanders United Methodist Church as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2015 Annual Conference. (Site marker 509) Flanders was where Francis Asbury pioneered the building of the first "Methodist House" in northwestern New Jersey. The building became a first of its kind and inspired Methodists to shift from household meetings, open air gatherings and services held in union churches to building churches wholly owned by Methodist, wherein Asbury initiated a new phase of congregational development. On June 24, 1787 Bishop Asbury preached to nearly 1000 people "in the woods." Flanders Methodists continued to worship in the Original Meeting House until 1857 at which time the present building was erected.





20. Resolution designating the Asbury United Methodist Church as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2016 Annual Conference. (Site marker 514. On June 9, 1796 Halls Mills was the first community in America to change its name to Asbury after the pioneering bishop and the center of an early Methodist circuit. William McCullough was the driving force to change the name in order to honor his good friend and frequent guest. It was also the occasion of Bishop Asbury laying the cornerstone of the original church building in the village. It was an important preaching site for Bishop Asbury and early Methodist circuit riders. The Asbury congregation was the center of an early circuit of churches. Asbury Methodists were the first to organize a class meeting in 1782 in the area and second to build a church. Bishop Asbury made his first visit to the site in the same year. His last visit came in 1811. The present sanctuary, built in 1914, is located at the same site.

21. Resolution designating the Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2016 Annual Conference. (site marker 519) The church has led the way in the spiritual well-being of Newark's Methodist African American community since 1869-1870 when it was known as St. John Methodist Episcopal Church. St. John MEC started out as a mission in Newark sometime around 1869 or 1870 and by 1872 had become the first organized African American Church under appointment in the Newark Annual Conference. In 1893 they transferred to the historic Delaware Annual conference. St. John's first pastor was the Reverend John L. H. Sweres who became the first African American minister admitted to the Newark Annual conference. He was transferred from the North-German Annual Conference. St. John church was regarded as the "mother church" of African-American congregations in our conference, having established mission congregations in St. John's in East Orange (1879) and St. Mark's in Montclair (1881). In 1971 St. John Church merged with the Franklin congregation



which traces its history to 1830. The building on the present site was constructed in 1931 by the Franklin congregation.

22. Resolution designating the Morristown United Methodist Church as a United Methodist Historic Site (marker # 520) was made at the 2016 Annual Conference. Morristown Methodists were first visited by Bishop Francis Asbury and Henry Boehm in 1811 and by 1815 regular class meetings and preaching services were held in the Samuel Bonsell home,



Morristown's most prominent layperson at that time. The church organized its first permanent society in 1825 and built the first church structure two years later. Located in the historic community where General Washington and his troops spent three winters of the Revolutionary War. The church continued to grow and is remembered for two famous revivals in 1828 and 1836. Both of these revivals would last for many weeks making Methodism a mainstay in the bustling town. The church hosted the first session of the Newark Annual conference in 1858. It held subsequent sessions in 1871, 1892, 1907 and 1957, where church members housed all the delegates for each meeting. Several pastors and laypersons became nationally recognized leaders. These American Methodist leaders with ties to the Morristown church include, but are not limited to George P. Eckman, Christian Advocate editor;

George T. Cobb, Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century U. S. Congressman; James M. Buckley, Christian Advocate Editor; Henry Anson Buttz, President of Drew Theological Seminary and eight time delegate to General Conference; Jesse Lyman Hulbert, Executive Secretary of the national Sunday School Department and editor of its publications. The church has survived a catastrophic fire in 1972 and completely rebuilt using the original stone walls. In 1973 the church experienced dynamic regrowth under the leadership of the Rev. James W. White and the Rev. Norman Walz, Associate, with a community outreach program including Van and Cable TV ministries.

23. Resolution designating Port Elizabeth United Methodist Church as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2015 Annual Conference. (Site marker 511) Port Elizabeth started out as the Maurice River Methodist Society around 1778 during the American revolutionary war. Benjamin Abbott, southern New Jersey's influential "War Time Evangelist" attended the quarterly meeting. Port Elizabeth Methodist church was visited by Bishop Frances Asbury on September 17, 1785. He would return in the spring of 1809 to preach and confer with Dr. Benjamin Fisler about building an academy on the church grounds. Richard Swain and his family are buried in its cemetery. Swain served under Abbott and was appointed to several circuits in the New Jersey area until 1803. His leadership helped make Methodism successful in the southern New Jersey area.



24. Resolution designating the South Seaville Camp Meeting as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2014 Annual conference. They received its site marker



500. South Seaville Camp Meeting was founded by Methodist Episcopal Church ministers from the area to promote conversion to Christ, rededication of lapsed faith and holiness of heart through protracted revivals during the summer months. The camp is family-friendly and had ministries for every age group as time

went on. It is the oldest continuous United Methodist related camp meeting in the Greater New Jersey area serving Southern New Jersey Methodists since 1863. The services directly caused an increase in local church membership and disciples. It has evolved into a historic resort style camp meeting like its contemporaries at Mt. tabor and Ocean Grove and is one of a few that survives today.

25. Resolution designating the Camden Neighborhood Center as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2015 Annual Conference. (Site marker 510)



In 1913 at the peak of establishing deaconess homes and training schools in the United States, Camden's Deaconess Home and community center is founded by the New Jersey conference Woman's Home Missionary society with deaconess Hattie F. Davis in charge. A house on 273 Kaighn's Avenue was purchased for the work. The initial offerings to the community were sewing classes, children's story hour and mother's meeting. Shortly thereafter a

kindergarten and employment bureau was launched. In that same year, the deaconess made nearly one thousand home visitations to the needy.

26. Resolution designating the Colonel William McCullough House as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2016 Annual Conference. It received site marker #513. William McCullough's house provided shelter for many illustrative early circuit riders such as Bishop Francis Asbury, Martin Boehm, Ezekiel cooper and others. Bishop Asbury visited the community



Several times, staying at the home of Revolutionary War veteran, Colonel William McCullough, the leading citizen of the village. It served as a venue for those circuit riders to preach in and hold quarterly meetings. Often, large crowds were accommodated by holding church services in McCullough's barn, which still stands on the property. It was the place where Northwestern New

Jersey Methodist laity met who helped create the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, the first church built solely by Methodists in Northwestern, New Jersey. Colonel

Revolutionary War, where he became close friends with the Generals Washington and Lafayette. Later he served as a member of the Assembly, of Council of New Jersey, county Judge from 1803 until 1838 and owner of a number of mills in the Asbury area. He was converted by the preaching of Ezekiel Cooper at Schooley's Mountain in 1786. The Colonel would spend the next fifty-four years in dedicated service to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Northern New Jersey in both time and money. Bishop Asbury knew of McCullough's commitment to Methodism long before they would meet in person.

27. Resolution designating the Theological School, Drew University as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2016 Annual Conference (site marker 522) Established as a theological seminary in 1867 to commemorate the centennial of American Methodism, Drew was named after financier and benefactor Daniel Drew. Drew Theological School became United Methodism's first solely post-baccalaureate seminary. The first such school

created by General Conference initially offered free tuition (due to a founding gift given by Daniel Drew and his continued financial support for the seminary until his financial demise) and collected one of the greatest theological libraries in the world. The first college building was the Gibbons Mansion, renamed Mead hall, which was built in 1832. Many bishops and other church leaders were students or faculty at Drew. The United Methodist Archives Center on campus houses the General

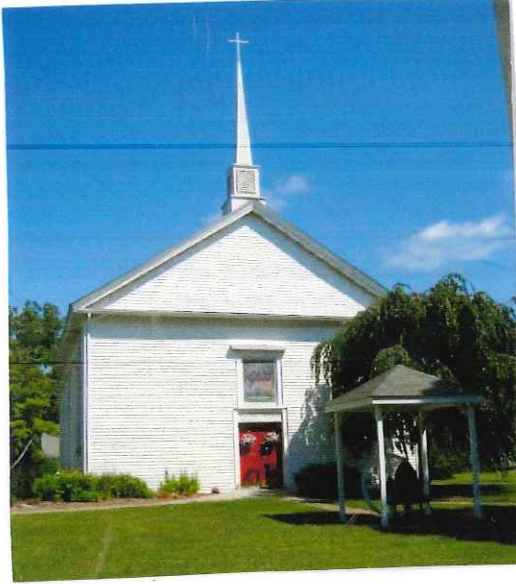
Commission on Archives and

History and the largest collection of Methodistica in America, including John Wesley's death mask and Francis Asbury's bible and saddlebags. Drew Seminary has provided a premier faculty to train future church leaders, which included those professors who would become known as The Great Five: Henry Anson Buttz, John Miley, George Richard Creeks, Samuel Foster Upham and James Strong and also many other New Jersey Methodists, who would serve on the faculty with great distinction through the school's history.



28.

Resolution designating the Frankford Plains UMC as a United Methodist Historic Site (marker 537) was made at the 2017 Annual Conference. One of the oldest in



Sussex County with German Lutherans having built its first cabin church in 1710. In 1750 a frame structure was built to replace the log cabin. In 1787 the Society of Methodists gained control of the church. The first Methodist Pastor was Thomas Morrell who had been an officer in Washington's army at Valley Forge. A third church was built on this same site in 1810 replacing the earlier structure. To the glory of God this site was the first Christian Church in Sussex county. The octagonal school house built in 1860 to educate local children, was deeded to the church and restored by the Church to be a Sunday School in the 1990's. At one juncture in the life of the Church they employed a woman preacher who was a Unitarian. Her doctrines were at variance with many and one faction denied her use

of the pulpit. However, One of her sympathizers discovered that part of the church has been built on his property so he directed her to use that portion of the church that was on his land.

29. Resolution designating the St. John UMC, Fordville as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2017 Annual Conference. (site marker 539) The church is a historic

Native American congregation with and ties within American and Anglo as well as, among the Nanticoke Lenni Nation in Cumberland Jersey. Since the Methodism around



member families who split from other churches in order to maintain their Native American heritage, have continued to worship god as Methodist Christian. In recent years this previously "hidden" church has become active in the Greater New Jersey Conference and beyond to share their heritage and ministry. The disciples of the Church are celebrating 175 years of history and ministry.

strong roots the African communities, members of Lenape county, New coming of 1799,

30. Resolution designating the Old Stone Church, Nyack, New York as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2017 Annual Conference. (site marker 538) The First Methodist Episcopal Church in Nyack, New York was built by the Methodist society



of Nyack in 1812, opened for worship in 1813 and was dedicated March 2, 1814. It was on the Bergen circuit of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and served by such future important Methodist preachers as Manning force and George Banghart. The congregation was reorganized and incorporated as "St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church" in 1877 and was honored to host the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Newark Annual conference in 1885.

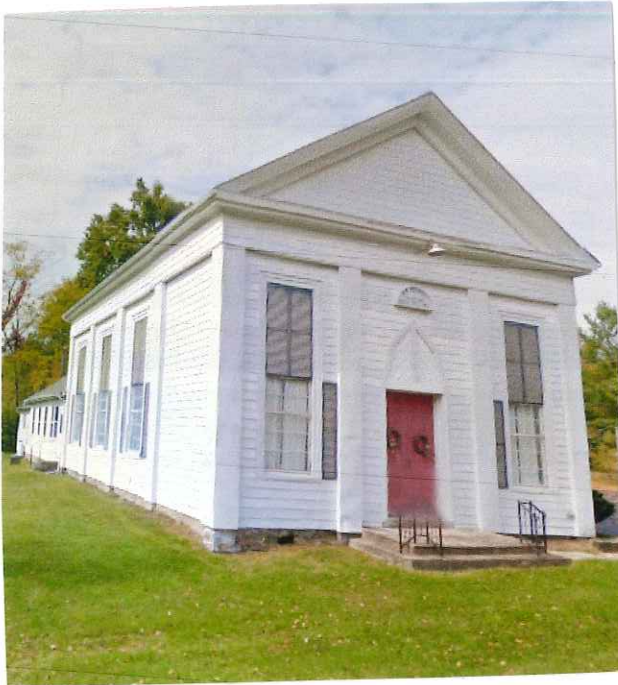
became known as "the Old Stone Church" and as the "Mother Church" for Methodism in the Nyack region. The Old Stone Church in 1998 and the St. Paul's United Methodist Church, in 2001, were named to the National Register of Historic Places

31. Resolution designating the Evangelical United Methodist Church, Clarksboro as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2018 Annual Conference. Although



Methodist, Evangelicals and United Brethren each had published strong statements condemning WAR and advocating peaceful reconciliation among the nation, The strength of their position was largely lost with American involvement in the hostilities of World War II. On April 23, 1968 Bishop Reuben H. Meuller representing the Evangelical United Brethren church and Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of the Methodist Church joined hands at the General Conference at Dallas, Texas. With this merger the United Methodist Church was created. It had approximately 11 million members, making it one of the largest protestant churches in the world.

32. Resolution designating the Kingwood United Methodist Church as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2018 Annual Conference. A missionary

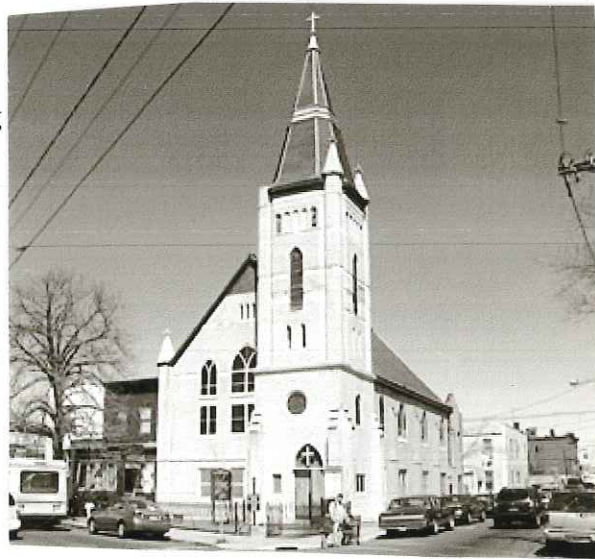


named the Rev. William Frazer was active in the Kingwood section in 1768 to 1793, sent out by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts. This organization was closely allied with early Methodism. In 1774 a Methodist circuit rider was appointed to ride through the region to preach wherever he could get a hearing. In 1776 and 1788 Bishop Francis Asbury preached in the area. He is reported to have preached from a "Pulpit Rock" on the farm of Thomas West in a wood not far from the site of the present church. In 1816 Kingwood Methodist Church, the first in this section, was built. The preacher in charge of the building was the Rev.

Manning Force and the land donor was Thomas West. Services were held in his home until completion of the church. In 1860 the old church was torn down and the present church was built. Several members desired Rosemont as the new site and separated to build a Methodist Church there.

33. Resolution designating the Emanuel United Methodist Church, Union City as a United Methodist Historic Site was made at the 2018 Annual Conference. The East Pennsylvania Conference of the

Evangelical Association saw urban areas as mission fields and voted in 1859 to evangelize German-speaking neighborhoods in the State of New Jersey. This ministry was consecrated 1863, when pastors and parishioners of First Evangelical Association church of Manhattan and First Evangelical Association Church of Newark were commissioned to preach in the region known as Union Hill (now Union City) In 1963 the church celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Despite a decline in membership, the Spirit of the Lord remains a vital force in the congregation.



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMORIAL

1. The Friendship Methodist Church, Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, near Monroeville, 1946 Annual conference.

A memorial stone to commemorate the origin of this society in 1772 was dedicated by Bishop Richardson, and marks the site of the First Methodist Church, in Pittsgrove, a log meeting house. Benjamin Abbott, a pioneer Methodist preacher, was the founder and organizer of the society.



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